

May 4, 2020-Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we have been forced to close our doors. Initially we decided to close our doors following the School District's lead. Serving the same youth population we thought it would be counterproductive and in the best interest of the residents and employees to close our doors. Since then we have been adhering to the Governor's orders.

Our part-time employees have been hit the hardest. They are integral to our operation and without them we would not be able to offer the many services we do. Most are collecting unemployment however we do have a few that are still doing on-line tutorials/projects/sports/ trainings. We appreciate their creative work and it is nice for them to continue to engage the children and work on their professional development.

The full-time staff are gainfully employed carrying-on preparing for the future. Cassandra Carter developed an interactive virtual website, which is great in engaging our youth population. <https://www.seabrookrecvirtual.com/> .

Today May 4th, 2020 began our Summer Camp registration. We will not require payment at this time because of the ever changing situation. If a decision needs to be determined by the Town, that decision will be made by May 29, 2020. This date was chosen to allow enough time for parents or guardians to find other accommodations for their children if Summer Camp is cancelled. If in fact we do have Summer Camp, payment will be due June 12, 2020. This date will allow two weeks for parents or guardians to pay for Summer Camp. We are hopeful we will be able to facilitate Summer Camp which is scheduled to begin June 22, 2020. We have a large number of children on a daily basis and that must be considered if the decision to have Summer Camp is to be determined by the Town. I am in frequent contact with other area Recreation Director's as to their thoughts and plans. I have also connected with the New Hampshire Parks and Recreation Association and the American Camp Association for general guidance and ideas.

We have had to cancel our Annual Basketball Tournament, Easter Egg Hunt and Bunny Breakfast, Senior Day and the Memorial Day Parade. Unfortunately these cancellations are completely out of our hands.

Meals on Wheels is using our building on a limited schedule to cut down on exposure. They are in the building Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

A big thank you to John Starkey and the employees at the DPW who helped coordinate the paving of our parking lot. It looks great, and was much needed. They will also be laying mulch and flowers to make it look even better. Improvements like this show we value our public spaces and is great for our residents to see. I do believe projects like this brings pride to our community.

The building was professionally cleaned April 27, 2020 in preparation for our opening. We would like for our residents to feel comfortable coming back to a disinfected building. The product they used to clean the building does kill the Coronavirus. The Meals on Wheels area will be professionally cleaned the weekend prior to our opening. Once we open we will follow the guidelines from the Government on how to continue to properly sanitize our building.

Before this pandemic safety was my number one priority, and that is stressed with all employees at the Community Center. Recreation is full with fun activities for children, open spaces for free play and leisure activities for our Senior Citizens. We must think of the lives we involve in our activities whether they be our young population, adults, employees and of course our Senior Citizens who are our most vulnerable population during this pandemic. When you boil it down safety is number one. We will continue to follow governmental guidelines as we move forward.

Katie Duffey
Recreation Director